



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Department of Human Services**

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## **PROVIDER ALERT**

To: Nursing Facility Providers  
Ref: NF-19-55  
Date: July 31, 2019  
From: Nursing Facility Licensing, Safety, Oversight and Quality  
Subject: **Poor Air Quality Advisory**

### **Nursing Facility Provider Alert**

Residents in your care may be extremely vulnerable to poor air quality conditions and we want to highlight important safety related information.

During times of poor air quality, exposure to outdoor air should be limited. If residents choose to go outdoors they will need to be closely monitored for any negative effects related to poor air. Consider keeping windows and doors closed when poor air quality is affecting the area.

Precautions should also be taken to prevent exposure to stale, non-circulating indoor air. Fans and air filter systems may be necessary to clean and circulate the indoor air. Air filtration systems may need to have more frequent filter maintenance during periods of poor air quality such as this.

Carefully monitor residents for breathing problems. Those with existing breathing challenges may experience exacerbated symptoms during poor air quality occurrences. Keep in mind that even residents without pre-existing breathing problems can exhibit or manifest breathing difficulties during periods of poor air quality. If breathing problems are suspected, please exercise caution, and contact the appropriate healthcare provider or emergency services if needed.

For information on reducing the health effects of wildfire smoke see:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preparedness/prepare/pages/prepareforwildfire.aspx>.

For more information related to current air and wildfire conditions see:  
[https://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=topics.smoke\\_wildfires](https://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=topics.smoke_wildfires)

For general information contact the DHS Safety, Oversight, and Quality or visit the DHS Web site at [www.oregon.gov/DHS](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS)

To contact Nursing Facility Licensing Unit directly please email us at: **NF.Licensing@state.or.us**.